

Applicant: Zurcher, Robert G.
Application Serial No.: 09/922,620
Filing Date: August 16, 2001
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-29 (cancelled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): A shielded intravenous infusion or blood collection assembly comprising:

an elongate needle;

a length of tubing;

an elongate housing being supportingly interposed between said needle at a distal end and said tubing at a proximal end and in fluid communication therewith, said housing comprising a pair of oppositely directed outwardly extended wings; and

a shield having a hinge with hinge axis about which said shield pivots, said shield being pivotally secured to said housing for pivotal movement about said hinge from an open position away from said needle to a closed position enclosing said needle, wherein said hinge axis is normal to a plane that bisects said wings.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 30, wherein said wings are flexible.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 30, wherein said wings are rigid.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 30, further including mounting means for mounting said shield to said housing.

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Claim 34 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 33 wherein said mounting means includes a clip positionable about said wings adjacent said housing for securing said shield to said housing.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 34, wherein said clip is integrally formed with said shield.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 34, wherein said ~~shield is connected to said clip by a~~ hinge is a living hinge.

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Claim 37 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 36, wherein said living hinge includes a pair of spaced apart hinge elements that form a double living hinge.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 34, wherein said shield comprises a proximal end, a distal end, a pair of opposed shield sidewalls and a top surface thereby defining an elongated recess extending from said distal end to said proximal end for housing said needle therein when said shield is in said closed position.


Claim 39 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 38, wherein said shield pivotally moves about ~~a~~ said hinge, wherein said hinge ~~is being~~ located between said shield and said clip toward a proximal portion of said clip.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 39, wherein said shield sidewalls include opposed inwardly directed protrusions adjacent said proximal end of said shield for engaging said clip when said shield is in said closed position.

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Claim 41 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 38, wherein ~~said shield pivotally moves about a hinge~~, said hinge ~~being~~ is located between said shield and said clip toward a distal portion of said clip.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 41, wherein said shield sidewalls include opposed inwardly directed protrusions adjacent said proximal end of said housing for engaging said housing when said shield is in said closed position.

 Claim 43 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 38, wherein said shield sidewalls comprise at least one inwardly directed protrusion adjacent said distal end of said recess of said shield, said distal protrusion being configured so as to be deflectable by said needle when said needle enters said elongated recess and returnable to an undeflected position when said shield is in said closed position.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 38 wherein said shield comprises a top finger guide area including a first ramp that extends slightly in an upwardly slope from said proximal end of said shield to a shoulder.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 44, wherein said first ramp includes a plurality of touch bumps.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 30, wherein said needle includes an upwardly facing beveled surface on the distal end thereof and said shield and said wings are aligned with said upwardly facing beveled surface of said needle.

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Claim 47 (currently amended): A safety device for a winged needle assembly having a needle, tubing and a housing in mutual fluid communication, said device comprising:

a shield pivotally supportable to said housing for pivotal movement from an open position away from said needle to a closed position enclosing said needle, said shield being connected to said housing; ~~and~~

mounting means for mounting said shield to said housing; and

a hinge interposed between said shield and mounting means, said shield having a hinge with a hinge axis about which said shield pivots, wherein said shield pivots, wherein said axis is normal to a plane that bisects said wings. arranged toward a top of said housing and operatively linked to said shield, wherein said shield pivots about said hinge.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 47, wherein said mounting means includes a pair of outwardly extending wings and a pair of clip extensions positionable about said wings adjacent said housing for securing said shield to said housing.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 48, wherein said clip ~~is~~ extensions are integrally formed with said shield.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 48, wherein said shield is connected to said clip extensions by a living hinge.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 50, wherein said living hinge includes a pair of spaced apart hinge elements to form a double living hinge.

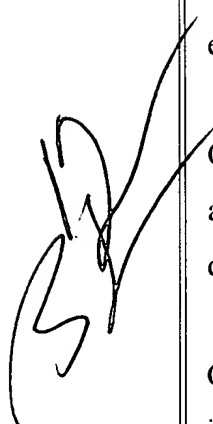
Claim 52 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 48, wherein said shield comprises a proximal end, a distal end, a pair of opposed shield sidewalls and a top surface thereby defining

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an elongated recess extending from said distal end to said proximal end for housing said needle therein.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 52, wherein said shield pivotally moves about a hinge, said hinge being located between said shield and said clip extensions toward a proximal portion of said clip extensions.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 53, wherein said shield sidewalls include opposed inwardly directed protrusions adjacent said proximal end of said shield for engaging said clip extensions when said shield is in said closed position.

 Claim 55 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 52, wherein said shield pivotally moves about a hinge, said hinge being located between said shield and said clip extensions toward a distal end of said clip.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 55, wherein said shield sidewalls include opposed inwardly directed protrusions adjacent said proximal end of said housing for engaging said housing when said shield is in said closed position.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 52, wherein said shield sidewalls comprise at least one inwardly directed protrusion adjacent said distal end of said recess of said shield, said distal protrusion being configured so as to be deflectable by said needle when said needle enters said elongated recess and returnable to its undeflected position when said shield is in said closed position.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 57, wherein said shield comprises a top finger guide area including a first ramp that extends slightly on an upwardly slope from said